



Storm Events

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ITD Quarterly Storm Water Newsletter

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Promoting Responsible Storm Water Management Practices throughout the Idaho Transportation Department

Contractor Fined for EPA Storm Water Violations

Sandpoint, Idaho – A Priest River contracting company is being fined \$7,500 for violating federal storm water permitting requirements, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced. Dependable Contracting, Inc., located in Priest River, Idaho, has reached a \$7,500 settlement with the EPA for violating federal storm water permitting requirements. Documents central to the case reveal the following violations:

- Operating without a required permit for four months,
- Failure to have a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, and
- Failure to stabilize a soil pile at a Priest River construction site.



According to Jim Werntz, EPA's Idaho State Director, conducting storm water inspections are a very effective way to protect Idaho's waters from sediment pollution that can choke rivers and lakes. "While many builders and developers are doing a good job, there are some who are ignoring these important requirements," said Werntz. "Builders and developers need to get the right permits and find out what's required *before* they start work or they will face fines." The Agency asserts that the storm water permitting program is a "central building block" to preventing water pollution and an important way that Idaho's lakes, rivers and streams are protected against polluted runoff from construction sites. Storm water permits are part of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit (CGP) program.

Test Your Storm Water Management I.Q.:

1. True or False: There can be more than two Notices of Intent (NOIs) submitted for any given ITD construction project?
2. What part of the Construction General Permit covers requirements for the project SWPPP?
3. The Contractor's Water Pollution Control Manager (WPCM) must attend an ITD certified Storm Water Management Course how many months prior to beginning of construction on an ITD project?
4. Each ITD project requiring a SWPPP and falling under the Consent Decree shall be inspected within how many hours of a storm event?

EPA Develops Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Guidance Manual with Templates

The new manual provides detailed guidance on the identification of best management practices (BMPs) for construction activities and development of storm water pollution prevention plans (SWPPP). It includes a set of worksheets, a checklist, and a sample SWPPP. This interim guidance document is intended as a helpful reference for construction site operators who must comply with an NPDES storm water permit. It describes the SWPPP development process and provides helpful guidance and tips for developing an effective SWPPP. (Note: final edits are pending on this interim document.) A customizable SWPPP template and sample inspection report, in Microsoft Word format, are also available:

- Developing Your Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan: A Guide for Construction Sites (Interim)
- SWPPP Template
- Sample Inspection Report

For more information, please visit the following EPA website:
<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/swppp.cfm>

Developer/Construction Co. Agree to Pay \$20,000 to Resolve Violations

Star, Idaho - Pinewood Lakes, LLC and Superior Construction & Excavating, Inc. have agreed to pay a \$20,000 penalty to settle alleged Clean Water Act violations. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the violations occurred at the Pinewood Lakes Subdivision construction site, which is located near State Highway 44 in Star, Idaho.

The settlement resolves alleged Clean Water Act violations that include the failure to obtain permit coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction Storm Water General Permit and the failure to install adequate best management practices to prevent the discharge of sediment from the construction site into the Lawrence-Kennedy Canal which flows to the Lower Boise River.

"Storm water runoff from construction sites can significantly harm water quality," said Kim Ogle, Manager of EPA's Northwest Regional Office's NPDES Compliance Unit. "Managing storm water responsibly at construction sites should be a key part of every developer's site plan."

The NPDES permit program, established under the federal Clean Water Act, controls water pollution by regulating sources that discharge pollutants to waters in the United States.

ITD STORM WATER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Q1: For storm water management purposes, what constitutes a rain event?

A1: While the CGP defines a storm event as any event reaching or exceeding 0.5 inches, the ITD specifications provide even further clarification. Per Section 212.03 final paragraph, "All erodible surfaces and control measures installed shall be inspected and maintained for functionality on a weekly basis and after each storm producing a flowing water event." Therefore, if a large storm event happens over a very short period of time that generates only 0.25 inches of rain but results in runoff from the site, per the ITD specifications, this shall be considered a rain event.

Q2: Where can I find a list of Idaho's 303d listed streams so I can check on their proximity to my ITD construction site?

A2: The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality maintains an inventory of 303d listed streams for the State of Idaho on their website. The following webpage provides the information:

http://www.deq.state.id.us/water/data_reports/surface_water/monitoring/integrated_report.cfm

Q3: Can anyone enter the project site and ask to view the project SWPPP?

A3: No. While the SWPPP falls under the Freedom of Information Act, per the Construction General Permit

A3 (CONT'D): Section 3.12 Para C, "SWPPPs must be made available upon request by a state, tribal or local agency approving sediment and erosion plans, grading plans, or storm water management plans; local government officials; the operator of a municipal separate storm sewer receiving discharges from the site; and representatives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service to the requestor. The copy of the SWPPP that is required to be kept on-site or locally available must be made available, in its entirety, to the EPA staff for review and copying at the time of an on-site inspection." The public can request to view the SWPPP under the auspices of the Freedom of Information Act. Formal requests should be handled through the Districts with Headquarters kept informed of any requests.

Quiz Answers:

1. True. There could be a situation on an ITD project requiring coverage under the CGP where multiple owners in addition to ITD could be responsible for storm water management. In this case, each responsible party would submit their own separate NOI.
2. Part 3 of the Construction General Permit covers all of the requirements for a project SWPPP.
3. Per the Consent Decree Para II.A.5, the WPCM must attend the course within the 12 months prior to beginning the project.
4. Per the Consent Decree Para II.B.7, the project site shall be inspected within 24 hours of any rain event.

BMP 3.11 - Surface/Soil Stabilization

Surface/soil stabilization is the installation of erosion control applications to the surface of disturbed areas to prevent or reduce erosion resulting from storm water runoff, snow melt and wind during construction. The surface/soil stabilization BMP deals with treating a potential erosion and sediment problem, prior to placement of a more permanent (i.e., permanent seeding) BMP. Examples of surface/soil stabilizers include: Wood fiber mulch and tackifier (hydro-applied), Wood fiber mulch in combination with a soil binder, tackifier, temporary seeding (cover crop), and bonding fibers (hydro-applied), Soil binders or tackifiers in combination or alone (hydro-applied), Bonded fiber matrix (prepackaged and hydro applied) used in high-precipitation areas or where a disturbed area needs to be stabilized through the winter months, Jute, burlap or wood fiber (excelsior) or coir matting, Wood chips, bark, or sawdust, Compost, Temporary seeding, in combination or alone.

Limitations:

Numerous erosion control products or a combination of products are promoted for temporary surface/soil stabilization or erosion control in construction. Some of these products are effective, while other products or methods are not. Several factors need to be considered in selecting the right products or methods for temporary surface/soil stabilization.

- Some liquid (hydro-applied) soil binders and/or tackifiers can create impervious surfaces (where water cannot penetrate) that in turn increase the amount and velocity of surface water runoff.
- Some liquid (hydro-applied) soil binders and/or tackifiers may have a detrimental effect on runoff water quality, seed germination/growth (temporary or permanent), beneficial soil microorganisms, and aquatic life.
- Erosion blanket or netting is both time-consuming and expensive. The blanket/netting must be hand-applied and then removed prior to application of more permanent BMPs (permanent seeding). Grain straw, grass hay, wood chips, bark or sawdust are not effective and are often cost prohibitive.
- Compost provides some temporary erosion control, but is more cost effective when used as mulch in relation to permanent seeding.

For detailed information please refer to ITD's Erosion and Sediment Control Manual, ITD Standard Specification 212.

BMP of the Quarter



Jute can be effective in the short term for erosion control as well as in the long term for promoting revegetation.